issue of the proposed Southern Gas Grid; and

(b) whether Government have since examined the report and if so, the details of the decision taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) : After considering the various recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Group Government has approved in principle the concept of a gas pipeline from the Western Offshore to the Southern region.

Revisions in the Prices of Petroleum Products since 1985

1476. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the revisions made in the prices of petroleum products since 1985 and resources mobilised as a result of these revisions; and

(b) what were the prices of crude oil in the international market during these revisions ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Prices of petroleum products were revised 9 times since 1985-86. The OCC Pool Account generated surpluses from 1985-86 to 1988-89 and deficits from 1989-90 to 1991-92.

(b) The yearly average of international market price of Oman, Dubai, and Suez Blend crude oil during this period was as follows :—

Year	Average in $ per barrel		
	Oman	Dubai	Suez Blend
1985-86*	24.41	23.91	23.50
1986-87	13.24	12.94	12.44
1987-88	16.68	16.27	16.26
1988-89	13.66	13.31	13.23
1989-90	16.53	16.09	16.43
1990-91	20.88	20.36	20.93
1991-92	16.95	16.40	16.20
1992-93 (Till Date)	18.54	18.04	17.27

*From September, 1985.

Oil wells and Exploration

1477. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of drilling wells for the extraction of crude oil in the country as on 1st November, 1992;

(b) the number of wells which have dried up during the last ten years;

(c) what efforts are being made to explore new sites and drill new wells during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(d) what amount of money is sanctioned for this purpose

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) 3672 oil wells.

(b) out of the oil wells producing earlier, ONGC has transferred 243 well as injectors, observation wells & effluent disposal well and 70 onshore wells were abandoned or are being abandoned.

(c) In adition to extensive 2D & 3D seismic surveys, the exploratory drilling proposed during the 8th Plan period is as follows :—

	Meters
ONGC	
Onland	20,52,700
Offshore	7,68,130
OIL	
Onland	2,08,000